AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A heat insulating stamper with a pattern on a surface thereof for use in molding an optical disc substrate, comprising:

an uppermost section made of a metal material;

a lowermost section made of the same material as the uppermost section; and

a middle section having a heat conductivity lower than the uppermost section, ~~and including~~ the middle section comprising:

the same metal material as the uppermost and lowermost sections; ~~and the lowermost section,~~ and

heat insulating portions dispersed in the metal material of the middle section.

2. (Currently amended) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat insulating portions are dispersed within a matrix of ~~formed with~~ the metal material of [[in]] the middle section.

3. (Currently amended) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the heat insulating portions include heat resisting substances dispersed in the metal material of ~~included in~~ the middle section.

4. (Currently amended) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the heat insulating portions are defined by minute voids present within the metal material of ~~included in~~ the middle section.

5. (Currently amended) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the middle section is ~~interposed~~ in the form of a layer interposed between the uppermost section and the lowermost section; and

the heat resisting substances are dispersed in the metal material of middle section such that concentration of the heat resisting substances varies at least in a depth direction of the layer.

6. (Original) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal material includes Ni.

7. (Currently amended) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 3, wherein the heat resisting substances include at least one of a heat resisting resin and a heat resisting inorganic material.

8. (Currently amended) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 7, wherein the heat resisting resin includes at least one of particles of a fluorinated resin (PTFE: polytetrafluoroethylene, PFA: perfluoroalkoxy resin, ETFE: tetrafluoretilen, PVDF: polyvinylidene fluoride), aromatic polyimide particles, aromatic polyamide particles, and silicon resin particles.

9. (Currently amended) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 7, wherein the heat resisting inorganic material includes at least one of zirconia series, alumina series, silicon carbide series, and [[or]] silicon nitride series.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a heat insulating stamper which includes an uppermost section made of a metal material, a lowermost section made of the same material as the uppermost section, and a middle section having a heat conductivity lower than the uppermost section, and including the same metal material as the uppermost section and the lowermost section, said method comprising:

a step of utilizing electroforming to manufacture said heat insulating stamper.

11. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing a heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 10, wherein the lowermost section, the middle section, and the uppermost section are subjected to electrodeposition using a single electroforming apparatus.

12. (Withdrawn) An optical disc that is manufactured by using the heat insulating stamper of claim 1.